

[Rollcall Vote No. 20 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagerty	Paul
Banks	Hassan	Peters
Barrasso	Hawley	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt Rochester	Hoehen	Rounds
Booker	Husted	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Britt	Johnson	Schiff
Budd	Justice	Schmitt
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kim	Shaheen
Coons	King	Shaheen
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Smith
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lujan	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Markey	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Van Hollen
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Duckworth	McCormick	Warnock
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Ernst	Moody	Welch
Fetterman	Moran	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moreno	Wicker
Galleo	Mullin	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Young
Graham	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—3

Ossoff Padilla Sheehy

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 8, Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 9, Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 10, Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 7, Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 18, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Bessent to be Secretary of the Treasury. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING ELWYNDA KOWAN PATTERSON CHAPMAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of the late Elwynda Kowan Patterson Chapman of Mitchellville, MD.

Mrs. Chapman was born in Kinston, NC, to loving parents Courtney L. Patterson and Bernice I. White Patterson. After attending local schools, Mrs. Chapman continued her education at North Carolina Central University and later received her masters in library science from the Catholic University of America in 1980.

Mrs. Chapman pursued her passion with a tremendous career as a library scientist, serving the Federal Government over countless years at the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Agricultural Library, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Her commitment to her career culminated in her participation in the founding of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Library and Information Network, which has been instrumental to the organization and sharing of relevant security data between agencies.

In addition to her robust career, Mrs. Chapman was a pillar of her community. From 1988, Elwynda and her husband "Mayor" David Chapman were

deeply involved in the Lake Arbor Community. Above all, Mrs. Chapman had a paramount devotion to the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, where she is best remembered for her love of worship and praise songs, involvement within the Sunday school, and faith community outreach efforts.

Mrs. Chapman's memory is cherished by all those who knew her, but especially by her family. She is survived by her husband David, with whom she was childhood sweethearts and married for 62 years, and her children and grandchildren, who will miss her dearly. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Chapman's family for her service. She will be sorely missed by all, but her lasting legacy will be forever etched into our community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MYERS TREE FARM

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Myers Tree Farm of Sperry, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1987, Robert and Patti Myers planted the first group of Christmas trees on an acre of land in hopes to sell them and help pay for their children's college education. This inspired their son Chad Myers to begin working at a local nursery and even using his graduation money to purchase and sell trees in the community. While attending Iowa State University, Chad spent summers expanding the family business. After graduating with a degree in horticulture in 1993, Chad took over the business full-time.

Today, Chad and his wife Joni, along with 12 community members, help operate the business. The company features over 5,000 Scotch Pine, White Pine, and Norway Spruce trees across 25 acres of land. They offer full-service landscaping, including seeding, sodding, tree transplanting, and more. Chad's college studies in greenhouse management inspired the construction of the farm's first greenhouse, which later evolved into the Potting Shed, a flower and home decor shop run by Joni. In 2019, the Myers renovated their barn into a wedding venue. What started as a kind gesture to assist a friend during a storm in 2008 has since transformed into a pivotal element of their business and creative spirit.

Serving the community remains the core of Myers Tree Farm. Since 2001, the business has hosted an annual Fourth of July celebration to thank their customers. This event features a professional fireworks show attracting over 5,000 attendees each year. Additionally, Myers Tree Farm is a member of the National Christmas Tree Grow-

ers, as well as the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association. Later this year, Myers Tree Farm looks forward to celebrating its 38th anniversary in Iowa.

The entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence demonstrated by Myers Tree Farm is clear. I want to congratulate this family-owned and operated business and the Myers' dedication to enriching the Sperry community and providing exceptional products and services to families across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-158. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulations" (RIN0579-AE68) (Docket No. APHS-2015-0008) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-159. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2021 and 2022 National Guard Personnel, Army appropriations funds and was assigned case number 23-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-160. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unsecured Credit Limits for Federal Home Loan Banks" (RIN2590-AB41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-161. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14064 with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-162. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-163. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-164. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.